

What is claimed is:

1 Add 1

1. An absorbent article adapted to fit about the waist of a wearer,  
the absorbent article having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the article  
comprising:  
front and rear waist sections with at least a first portion of the rear waist section  
formed of a stretchable material,  
an intermediate section which includes an absorbent portion and which  
intermediate section interconnects the front and rear waist sections, and  
a gasketing assembly operatively joined with the first portion of the rear waist  
section to mechanically deploy a gasket element upon tensioning of the stretchable  
material, the gasket element configured to inhibit a longitudinal flow of human  
discharge along a bodyfacing surface of the absorbent article.

2. The absorbent article of claim 1 having a longitudinal centerline  
wherein the gasket element is centered about the longitudinal centerline.

3. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the gasket element  
comprises a face portion deployable toward the waist of the wearer and at least one  
thrust portion effective to deploy the face portion toward the waist of the wearer.

1                   4.     The absorbent article of claim 3 wherein the at least one thrust  
2     portion comprises a compression resistant member.

1                   5.     The absorbent article of claim 3 wherein the compression  
2     resistant member is encased within a soft covering.

1                   6.     The absorbent article of claim 3 wherein the gasket element  
2     comprises at least a pair of opposed thrust portions effective to deploy the face portion  
3     toward the waist of the wearer.

1                   7.     The absorbent article of claim 6 wherein each of the pair of  
2     opposed thrust portions comprises a compression resistant member.

1                   8.     The absorbent article of claim 7 wherein the compression  
2     resistant member of each of the pair of opposed thrust portions is encased within a soft  
3     covering.

1                   9.     The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein a first longitudinal edge  
2     of the gasket element is joined at the rear waist section to form a closed rear waist end  
3     portion.





19. The disposable absorbent article of claim 18 wherein at least one of the at least a pair of opposed thrust portions comprises a compression resistant member.

20. The disposable absorbent article of claim 17 wherein the gasketing assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

21. The disposable absorbent article of claim 17 additionally comprising a bodyside liner deployable by action of the gasketing assembly toward the waist of the wearer.

22. In an absorbent article having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and which absorbent article includes a front waist section, a stretchable rear waist section, and an intermediate section which interconnects the front and rear waist sections and which intermediate section includes an absorbent portion, a method comprising:

for inhibiting a longitudinal flow of human discharge along a bodyfacing surface of the absorbent article.

1                   23.    The method of claim 22 wherein the absorbent article has a  
2 longitudinal centerline and wherein the gasket element is centered about the  
3 longitudinal centerline.

1                   24.    The method of claim 22 wherein the gasket element includes a  
2 face portion and at least one thrust portion wherein upon tensioning the stretchable  
3 rear waist section the face portion is deployed toward the waist of the wearer.

1                   25.    The method of claim 22 wherein upon deployment of the gasket  
2 element, a containment volume effective to contain human discharge therewithin and  
3 spaced apart from contact with the body of the wearer is formed.

1                   26.    The method of claim 22 wherein the absorbent article also  
2 includes a bodyside liner wherein deployment of the gasket element directs the  
3 bodyside liner toward the waist of the wearer.

1                   27.    The method of claim 22 wherein the tensioning of the stretchable  
2 rear waist section effects deployment of a plurality of gasket elements for inhibiting  
3 a longitudinal flow of human discharge along a bodyfacing surface of the absorbent  
4 article.

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